

February 10, 2004

Summary:

On 2/10/04 at approximately 12:00pm, a maintenance worker was killed when he fell off a beam he was standing on.

The victim was a maintenance supervisor and was checking a part number to order a new part. There were no witnesses to the fall but another worker saw him in the area standing on a beam about 7 feet off the floor. When the other worker heard a sound like a man falling, he went down to the conveyor. He found the victim on the floor below the conveyor. The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be subdural hematoma from a blunt force injury to the head.

The victim fell from a beam that was approximately 7 feet 4 ½ inches from the floor. He landed on the opposite side of a conveyor located next to the location of the beam he was standing on. The conveyor is on a ramp going down into a pit under the floor. The depth of the conveyor ramp where he was found is approximately 4 feet, making the total fall approximately 11 feet. It is believed the victim hit his head on the top edge of the concrete wall of the ramp.

Probable Cause:

The nearest ladder was a 6-8 foot step ladder about 8 feet away. There were no other safe means of access observed at the scene. It is believed that the victim climbed up a pallet of sand or the X braces of the structural frame to get to the beam where another employee saw him just before he fell

Requirements/Recommendations:

- Use safe means of access to an area where he needed to check on a part.
- Develop, supervise, implement and enforce training programs to improve the skill, awareness, and competency of all their employees whose job duties require them to access areas otherwise inaccessible other than by portable ladder or elevating work platforms. WAC 296-800-14020